DEBATE

Should Colorado ban gay rights laws?

Yes: Amendment 2 bars special status for homosexuals

By **Will Perkins**

Adolph Hitler said: "The great masses of people ... will more easily fall victims to a big lie than to a small one." Opponents of Amendment 2 have finally mastered the familiar Big Lie technique, and they're trying out that technique right now with several absurd lies about Amendment 2.

Here's the main one: "Amendment 2 writes discrimination into the Constitution." Ridiculous! Amendment 2 says this: Coloradans don't think it's fair to grant special legal status based on what people do in bed. Pure and simple. End of story.

But here's where the gay militants sneak in the lie: Historically, the way society gives a group protected status is by prohibiting any discrimination based on belonging to that group. So militant gays want you to believe that "anyone who won't give us protected status is encouraging discrimination against us!" This is like a stranger asking you to buy him a steak dinner, and if you refuse, accusing you of denying him the right to eat.

Here's an example of how absurd their arguments really are. Let's suppose that Amendment 2 would prohibit special protected class status, instead of for gays, for Caucasian males under the age of 40 with no physical disabilities. (Let's call them CMU4ND for short). By any standard, CMU4NDs are discriminated against — by affirmative-action policies and racially-conscious employers across the country. The law has no problem with that.

So the Equal Protection Campaign opposing Amendment 2 should still oppose it; after all, they like to claim that "all discrimination should be abolished," and "if we allow discrimination against anyone, we're discriminating against everyone. "And when Amendment 2 backers point out that CMU4NDs aren't oppressed, but instead affluent, well-educated and politically powerful (like homosexuals), EPOC's "gay-rights" rationale would still apply: "Since when does income or comfort level matter in being protected from discrimination?"

POINTS IN FAVOR

- The amendment would preserve civil rights for all people, regardless of sexual preference.
- Only special rights would be prohibited for gays as a protected class based on their lifestyle.
- The measure would head off any effort to impose special gay rights statewide.
- Gay rights laws discriminate against those with traditional beliefs.

Obviously, if EPOC is at all consistent in their convictions, they would oppose with equal ferocity an attempt to deny "young white males with no disability" this protected class status. After all, every one of their arguments apply equally.

There's only one problem: Giving young white males with no disability this protected class status would obliterate civil rights as we know it — right along with all the gains of the civil rights movement. If the nation's richest, most educated, most advantaged, most powerful group of people becomes a protected class, what does it mean to be a protected minority? Nothing.

Special rights for homosexuality is just as grave a threat to civil rights. Gays have equal rights. Now they want special rights, and that's not fair. Amendment 2 calmly and rationally denies this excessive and downright outrageous request. A request that is, itself, a true attempt to discriminate against those with traditional beliefs.

Big Lie No. 2: "Amendment 2 will destroy home rule." A cynical lie. Home rule is important, but if we only governed through home rule, why would there be a Colorado Legislature or a U.S. Congress? Obviously, some issues are "home rule issues" and some aren't.

Coloradans don't think it's fair to grant special legal status based on what people do in bed. Pure and simple. End of story.

Incredibly, our opponents, champions of "home rule," have vowed to pass statewide "gay-rights" legislation if Amendment 2 fails. If that happens, ask a local homosexual activist on his way up the Capitol steps if he plans on giving Colorado towns a chance to ratify or reject his measure. Ask him if he still cares — if he ever cared — about "home rule." He might smile and tell you, "History is written by the victor." Or he might just turn away and keep walking towards his spoils.

Please, to "live and let live," to protect true civil rights — vote "Yes" on Amendment 2.

Perkins, a Colorado Springs businessman, is chairman of Colorado for Family Values, the group promoting Amendment 2.

No: Measure would legalize discrimination against gays

By **Julie Cooper**

Tucked way down at the bottom of Amendment 2, where its writers and proponents hoped no one would see, is the phrase "no claim of discrimination." When you have no claim of discrimination, anyone can legally discriminate against you.

Amendment 2 is a proposed change in the Colorado Constitution, written and promoted by Colorado for Family Values, that would permanently legalize discrimination against gay people in this state. Stripped of all its confusing language, Amendment 2 says that gays and lesbians can be denied their basic civil rights, on the sole basis of who they are or who they love, and have no legal recourse under the law. That's not right. Everyone should have legal recourse. Civil rights must extend to everyone equally, not just to the self-proclaimed chosen few. Laws are made to protect people, not endanger them.

Amendment 2 is dangerous legislation for several reasons. It toys with the home-rule legislation that the diverse communities in our tourist state need to survive. It sets a precedent for any other organization to write their brand of morality or prejudice into the Constitution and opens the door for anyone of us to become the next target for legal discrimination.

Enactment of Amendment 2 would have serious repercussions on the economic stability of our state. Many large companies in Colorado — Apple, Digital, Hewlett-Packard, just to name a few — have internal policies that protect all their employees from discrimination in the work place based on sexual orientation.

These companies recognize that discrimination is ethically wrong, bad for business and they will be reluctant to expand or relocate in Colorado where a climate of intolerance and discrimination is both socially acceptable and legally sanctioned. Apple Computers, instead of expanding here, moved a branch of their operations to Austin, Texas, citing the social atmosphere in Colorado Springs as one of the factors in that decision. Will we allow CFV and their amendment to drive away our jobs, prevent the influx of new jobs, and jeopardize the economic stability of our state?

POINTS AGAINST

- The amendment would legalize discrimination against gays and lesbians.
- It would foster a climate of hate toward homosexuals.
- Employers that already have gay rights policies would be deterred from relocating to Colorado.
- The measure would deny home rule to Colorado communities that already have gay rights laws locally or wish to enact them.

CFV has chosen to ignore these dangers and promote their bill as the "No Special Rights Amendment." If this amendment's sole effect were to prevent gays and lesbians from gaining "special rights," we would have no disagreement with CFV. The truth is that this amendment would deny basic civil rights, because it would bar any legal recourse for individuals who lose their job or are denied a place to live simply because they are gay or are perceived to be gay.

The Equal Protection Campaign does not want to see discrimination of any kind, toward anyone, written into our Constitution. We believe that diversity is a strength in our society that should be celebrated, not a weakness to be eliminated. Legalized discrimination creates a climate of intolerance and divides our society.

Springfield, Ore., recently passed a law similar to Amendment 2 and is experiencing the social repercussions. Hate crimes against gays and gay-rights supporters have increased by 30 percent. A man and woman died in their firebombed home to the chants of "Faggot" and "Lesbo." The Oregon Citizens Alliance, CFV soul mates, has called for the resignation of a public figure whose child is gay.

These are just a few of the incidents that have been reported. How many more go unreported? EPOC does not want to see the same thing happen here in Colorado. Discrimination breeds intolerance. Do you want discrimination legalized in our state?

CFV tells the voters that they should "love the sinner and hate the sin." Yet how loving are they to continually promote and distribute brochures containing the distorted, inaccurate and sensationalized data on homosexuality from Paul Cameron's Family Research Institute? Cameron has been dropped from membership by the American Psychological Association and discredited by the American Sociology Association for misrepresenting the Kinsey data on human sexuality. His license has been revoked for "violating the psychological code of ethics."

CFV knows this, yet they persist in publicly promoting his institute's lies against our gay brothers and sisters, friends and relatives. It is truly a dark stain on the fabric of our Judeo-Christian tradition when "loving the sinner and hating the sin" gives CFV permission to bear false witness against their neighbors.

With every campaign and campaign issue there is a side for and a side against. We of EPO recognize that Colorado Springs is the birthplace of CFV and Amendment 2. Yet, if enacted, Amendment 2 will affect the entire state. With Springfield, Ore., as a backdrop, we have become more aware of, and saddened by, the polarization of the people here in the Springs and how this issue has divided our community.

The truth is that this amendment would deny basic civil rights, because it would bar any legal recourse for individuals who lose their job or are denied a place to live simply because they are gay or are perceived to be gay.

In an effort toward brother/sisterhood and unity, we ask that those on each side of the amendment separate the issue from the people, and see people first, understanding that each side believes they are acting for the betterment of our community.

Let's use this belief as a common ground to close the chasm that has separated us for far too long. We are neighbors now before the election. We will continue to be neighbors after the election. Amendment 2 may divide opinions, let's not let it divide us.

Cooper, a resident of Colorado Springs, is state co-chair of the Equal Protection Campaign of Colorado.

No shots, no school for hundreds

D-11 seventh-graders need measles boosters

By **Trudy Welsh**/Gazette Telegraph

Dozens of Colorado Springs School District 11 seventh-graders may miss a second day of classes today because they have not gotten a measles booster shot.

After measles began making a comeback nationwide, the state passed a law that bars seventh-graders and college freshmen from attending classes if they did not have vaccinations. District 11 officials began warning parents about the requirement in the spring and gave students a grace period of 60 days from the start of school to get the immunizations.

But as of the Monday morning deadline, more than 200 of the district's 2,400 seventh-graders had not showed proof they had gotten the booster shots for measles, mumps and rubella, commonly called German measles. Many spent part of their day off from school getting shots or going through medical records at home. By late afternoon, all but 125 students had complied with the state rule.

Nurses estimate that only 40 to 50 students will not have the required shots by this morning, said Agnes Fitch, District 11's nurse chairman.

In addition to letters to parents and notice in the media, the district also has begun calling parents to remind them about the vaccination requirement.

"We don't want even one student to miss another day of school if possible," Fitch said.

District 11 officials thought they were being lenient in allowing students to have a 60-day grace period in which to be immunized — many other districts required the shots before students registered this fall.

In some cases, however, students kept the notices from their parents until the last minute because they were afraid of getting a shot, she said.

The past week has been a busy one for the county clinic. Nursing Supervisor Marilyn Bosenbecker estimated that her staff handled more than 200 measles immunizations during that week.

The county this year experienced its first reported cases of measles in about a dozen years. More than 20 cases have been reported since May.

However, no new cases have been reported since early September, Bosenbecker said.

WHAT TO DO

To get immunizations:
First, contact family doctors. Otherwise, call the El Paso County Health Department's walk-in clinic at 578-3182 or 578-3163. Cost of the vaccinations at the county clinic ranges from nothing to $15, depending on a family's income.

FOR THE RECORD

BULLETIN BOARD

High Twelves to meet: The Pikes Peak High Twelve Club will meet at noon today at 1150 Panorama Drive. R.W. James Aycock will speak on "Benedict Arnold and His Second Wife." Reservations are needed. Call 635-1434 or 596-7724 for information.

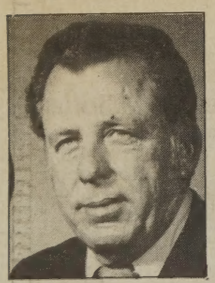
Power outages planned: A power outage is planned from 8 to 10 a.m. today in an area bordered on the north by San Miguel Street, on the east by Alexander Road, on the south by Monument Street and on the west by Prairie Road. A second outage is planned from 10 a.m. to noon in an area bordered on the north by San Miguel Street, on the east by Prairie Road, on the south by Monument Street and on the west by Iowa Avenue. Call 520-4090 for information.

D-11 board meeting moved: Wednesday's regular Colorado Springs School District 11 board meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at East Junior High School, 1600 N. Union Blvd. The board normally meets in the Central Administration Building, 1115 N. El Paso St. Board members decided recently to meet from time to time at schools around the district.

Homophobia to be discussed: A panel discussion, "Homophobia and Homosexuality: A Parent's Perspective," will be presented at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday in University Center Room 124 on the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs campus. Call 593-3439 for information.

OBITUARIES

SAMUEL L. CROCKER, 68, of Canon City died Oct. 25, 1992, at a local hospital. He was a lineman and operations manager with K.C. Electric Association and the Southeast Colorado Power Association before retiring.


Mr. Crocker

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Shrine of Remembrance Chapel of Roses, 1730 E. Fountain Blvd., with chaplain John Zay officiating. Private burial is planned. Shrine of Remembrance is handling arrangements.

Mr. Crocker was born Oct. 7, 1924, in Joliet, Ill., to Samuel T. and Margaret Mae (Ethridge) Crocker.

He had lived in Canon City since 1990 and also had lived in La Junta and Stratton.

Mr. Crocker was in the Navy from 1942 to 1946.

He was a former member of the Rotary Club, Elks and the American Legion.

Mr. Crocker was married Aug. 19, 1947, in Colby, Kan., to Dolores R. Frankenfeld, who survives.

He also is survived by two sons, Larry of Colorado Springs and Monty of Independence, Mo.; a brother, Jim of Conifer; two sisters, Mae Baldwin of St. Joseph, Mich., and Betty Corbin of Englewood; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Penrose Cancer Fund, 2215 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs 80907.

GUY O. STEWART, 77, of Canon City died Oct. 26, 1992, in Canon City. He was a custodian and also had been a farmer in Minnesota.

Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Swan-Law Funeral Home, 501 N. Cascade Ave. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at Memorial Gardens Chapel, 3825 Airport Road, with the Rev. Glenn O. McPherson officiating. Private family burial is planned. Swan-Law is handling arrangements.

Mr. Stewart was born April 16, 1915, in Lynd, Minn., to Lincoln and Lillian (Olin) Stewart.

He had lived in Canon City since 1976.

Mr. Stewart was married Oct. 16, 1937, in

MARY L. RUSH, 78, of Colorado Springs died Oct. 22, 1992, at her home. She was a bookkeeper for her family business and also worked for Colorado College.

Services have been held. Swan-Law Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Mrs. Rush was born Jan. 18, 1914, in Jamestown, Ky., to John and Viola (Wells) Lawless.

She had lived in Colorado Springs for 35 years and also had lived in Wilmington, Ill.

She was past president and lifetime charter member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5242 Ladies Auxiliary and a current member of VFW Post 4051.

Mrs. Rush was married Dec. 19, 1933, in Springfield, Ill., to William Rush Sr., who is deceased.

She is survived by two sons, Richard A. of Arvada and William of Colorado Springs; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She had a son, Ronald L., who is deceased.

Memorial contributions may be made to Central Christian Church, 2002 W. Pikes Peak Ave., Colorado Springs 80904; or to the charity of the giver's choice.

MARGARET JO McINTYRE, 63, of Brownsville, Texas, died Oct. 13, 1992, in Brownsville. She was a former resident of Colorado Springs.

Services have been held.

Mrs. McIntyre was born Jan. 24, 1929, in Memphis, Tenn., to Joseph F. and Mary Margaret Myers. Her mother survives and lives in Memphis.

She was married to Robert McIntyre, who survives.

Mrs. McIntyre also is survived by a son, Bruce; four daughters, Lauren Harris of Calhan, Lissa Pinello of Penrose, Lizabeth Salinas of Colorado Springs and Moira Fite of Ponca City, Okla.; a brother, Joseph F. Myers Jr.; two sisters, Rita Henderson and Gayle Davis, both of Memphis; and four grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church, 155 Market St., Memphis, Tenn., 38103.

ELAINE M. HERNANDEZ, 55, of Colorado Springs died Oct. 23, 1992, at a local hospital. She was a homemaker.

No services are scheduled. Cremation is planned. Evergreen Funeral Home, Fountain and Union boulevards, is handling arrangements.

Mrs. Hernandez was born Dec. 27, 1936, in Du

DIANNA L. WISWELL LINDQUIST, 30, of Hill City, Minn., died Oct. 20, 1992, in Calder, Idaho. She was a former resident of Colorado Springs.

Services have been held. Rowe Funeral Home, Grand Rapids, Minn., handled arrangements.

Mrs. Lindquist was born April 21, 1962, in Minneapolis to Keith and Delores Alger of Hill City.

She was in the Army from 1981 to 1989 and attended Itasca Community College.

Mrs. Lindquist was married Oct. 15, 1992, to Alvin "Butch" Lindquist, who survives.

She also is survived by a son, Patrick; a daughter, April Wiswell; a half brother, Brad Reymon of Deer River, Minn.; and a sister, Sandi Caverly of Hill City.

MARTHA L. ZABRUSKY, 80, of Canon City died Oct. 23, 1992.

Services have been held. Wilson Almont Funeral Home, Canon City, is handling arrangements.

Miss Zabrusky was born June 15, 1912, in Chandler to Michael and Helen (Vavra) Zabrusky.

She is survived by two brothers, Bernard of Canon City and Edward of East Lansing, Mich.; and three sisters, Ruby of Canon City, Betty and Dorothy, both of Colorado Springs.

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